Barriers in exporting foodgrains

4998. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of wheat and rice exported during the last two years;

(b) whether frequent increase in prices, inadequate infrastructure and administrative hardships in dealing with FCI are major barriers in exporting foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS , FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) 107.48 lakh MTs of wheat and 104.21 lakh MTs of rice have been lifted during the last two years from the Central Pool by the exporters. Wheat and rice are made available to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices/uniform price, which are fixed by the Government from time to time based on crop year, variety and location of stocks. Post Delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to them.

(b) and (c) Certain operational problems like inadequate availability of railway rakes for export of foodgrains have been reported in the recent past. Standing Committee on Export meets regularly to consider the problems of the exporters and takes steps to resolve them.

Import of commodities

†4999. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of commodities imported during the last three years and foreign exchange spent thereon, year-wise;

(b) the requisite steps so far taken by Government to indigenously produce and manufacture the commodities having been imported; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.